

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

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E.O. 11652 XGDS1

TAGS: ESTC, COCOM

SUBJECT: 1974 COCOM LIST REVIEW: IL 1460-AIRCRAFT

REFS: A. COCOM DOCS. REV (74)5 AND (75)1460/2

B. DEFENSE WG-I MEMO OF JUNE 6, 1975

C. STATE 261364

THIS REPORT INCLUDES THE RESULTS OF THE BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS WITH UK, GERMAN AND FRENCH DELS AS WELL AS RESULTS OF THE COMMITTEE'S DISCUSSIONS RE IL 1460 ON NOV. 17.

OTHER DELS WERE NOTIFIED THAT US WOULD NOT BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS ITEM IN COMMITTEE, BUT ONLY UK, FRENCH, AND GERMAN ACCEPTED OFFER OF BILATERAL TALKS.

1. BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS WITH THE GERMAN AND BRITISH DELS (NOV. 13) AND WITH FRENCH DEL (NOV. 14) WERE INTRODUCED ON THE BASIS THAT THE US WOULD LIKE THEM TO BE ACQUAINTED WITH THE PROBLEMS FACING THE US IN THE IL 1460 AREA AS A WHOLE, RESULTING BELIEF THAT THE ENTRY NEEDS COMPLETE REVISION, AND, PENDING THE COMPLETION OF THAT REVISION, THE US PREFERENCE FOR POSTPONING ITS RESPONSE TO THE UK PROPOSALS IN REF A. TALKS WERE IN LOW-KEY AND OUTLINED IN BROAD AND GENERAL TERMS THE PROBLEMS THE US HAS IN DISTINGUISHING THE POCKETS OF TECHNOLOGY COMMON TO BOTH CIVILIAN AND MILITARY AIRCRAFT FROM

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THOSE WHICH WERE PRIMARILY MILITARY IN NATURE AND VICE

VERSA. US SIDE USED AS TALKING POINTS THE SALIENT FEATURES CONTAINED IN NUMBERED PARAGRAPHS 1 THROUGH 5 OF REF B. IN BILATERALS, US SIDE ALSO NOTED THAT THE RESULTS OF ANY US-AUTHORED REDEFINITION OF IL 1460 MOST LIKELY WOULD ESTABLISH NEW CRITERIA RESULTING IN SOME STRENGTHENING AND SOME LIBERALIZATION. EMPHASIS WAS PLACED, HOWEVER, ON FACT THAT US HAD NOT YET COMPLETED ITS STUDY AND, THEREFORE, IT WOULD BE PREMATURE TO GIVE ANY INDICATION AS TO THE DIRECTION OF US THINKING ON THESE LINES.

2. GERMAN DEL DID NOT EXPRESS CONCERN. UKDEL LISTENED SYMPATHETICALLY BUT STATED THAT ITS LONDON TEAM MOST LIKELY WOULD HAVE HARSH THINGS TO SAY ABOUT US UNPAREDNESS RE ITS REF A PROPOSALS, ESPECIALLY SINCE IT IS NOW ROUND IV. THE FRENCH WERE NONCOMMittal BUT WOULD LIKE THE US TO SUPPLY THE TECHNICAL DETAILS OF ITS VARIOUS CONCERNS SO THAT THEY MAY BE PASSED ON TO THE FRENCH MILITARY EXPERTS. US SIDE MENTIONED DESIRABILITY OF AN EXCHANGE OF VIEWS WITH ALL THREE DELS BUT NOTED THAT THESE MIGHT POSSIBLY BE EFFECTED THROUGH CORRESPONDENCE RATHER THAN FACE-TO-FACE DISCUSSIONS.

3. AT THE START OF NOV. 17 COMMITTEE DISCUSSIONS, USDEL TABLED A SHORT TWO-PARAGRAPH STATEMENT OUTLINING IN GENERAL US PROBLEMS RE THE COMMONALITY OF TECHNOLOGY PROBLEM, STATING ITS INTENTION TO TABLE A PROPOSED REFORMULATION OF IL 1460 IN THE DEF SERIES IN THE NEAR FUTURE AND NOTING ITS PRELIMINARY VIEW THAT A REVISION OF

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IL-10 MIGHT ALSO BE NECESSARY. USDEL ATTEMPTED TO KEEP FURTHER DISCUSSION ON AN OFF-THE-RECORD BASIS, BUT THE UK, WHO DID HAVE HARSH THINGS TO SAY, MADE STATEMENTS ON THE RECORD AND PRESSED FOR US ON-THE-RECORD REPLIES. THE BRITISH CONSIDERED THE LACK OF A US RESPONSE TO ITS REF A PROPOSALS AFTER THE LAPSE OF ONE YEAR'S TIME TO BE "APPALLING" AND "INTOLERABLE". WHILE THE UK COULD ACCEPT THAT TECHNOLOGICAL LEVELS IN AIRCRAFT ENGINES HAVE INCREASED AND THAT THE MORE MODERN ONES SHOULD BE EMBARGOED, THEY COULD NOT UNDERSTAND THE US CONCERN OVER ENGINES APPROXIMATELY 10 YEARS OLD, PARTICULARLY WHEN THEY HAD DEMONSTRATED IN THE COMMITTEE THE EXTENT OF SOVIET CAPABILITY IN THE AERO-ENGINE AREA. US, BEING FORCED INTO THE POSITION OF MAKING ON-THE-RECORD STATEMENTS' REPLIED USING THRUST OF THE ARGUMENT CONTAINED IN THE SECOND PARAGRAPH OF PAGE 3 OF REF B. US AGAIN EXPRESSED WILLINGNESS TO ANSWER FURTHER QUESTIONS, PREFERABLY ON AN OFF-THE-RECORD BASIS. NONE WERE ASKED. FRENCH DEL NOTED THAT, WHILE FRANCE NOT CONCERNED, IT COULD APPRECIATE THE UK'S VIEWS AND FOUND IT DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND THAT THE US COULD NOT AGREE TO THE "MODEST" UK PROPOSAL. IN THE END, UK PRESSED FOR A US POSITION ON ITS PROPOSALS AND USDEL WAS FORCED TO OBJECT.

4. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH ONLY THE BRITISH---WHOSE COMMENTS WERE BARBED---AND THE FRENCH MADE STATEMENTS DURING THE CONFIDENTIAL

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DISCUSSION, IT WAS PLAIN THAT ALL DELEGATIONS, AND THE CHAIRMAN AS WELL, WERE HIGHLY IRRITATED OVER THE US POSTURE ON IL 1460 AND IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THEY VIEWED THE US UNDERTAKING TO REVISE THIS ENTRY AS A THINLY VEILED EXCUSE FOR ITS INABILITY OR UNWILLINGNESS TO RESPOND TO THE UK PROPOSALS. USDEL AND WASHINGTON TEAM BELIEVE THAT THE US WILL HAVE A HARD AND LONG TIME LIVING THIS DOWN.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: WG-I ACTION ON A REVISED DEFINITION FOR IL 1460 AS THE FIRST ITEM OF POST-LIST REVIEW BUSINESS.

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